

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

1. (Currently Amended) A dewatering aid for dewatering a cementitious slurry coating on a product, said dewatering aid comprising a particulate material in an effective quantity and particle size to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering and thereby permit dewatering of the slurry through the product to be coated, wherein said dewatering aid comprises about 25-60 wt % silica, about 10-30 wt % Al_2O_3 , about 5-25 wt % Fe_2O_3 , about 0-20 wt % CaO, about 0-5 wt % MgO, wherein a first portion of the particulate material has a particle size of about 10 microns or less in the amount of about 5 to 30 wt.% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients and a second portion of the particulate material has a larger particle size of about 100 microns maximum size ~~or less~~ in the amount of 10 to 60 wt.% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is selected from the group consisting of fly ash, alumina trihydrate, silica flour, cenospheres and mixtures thereof.

4. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the product through which the slurry is dewatered is a cementitious building board or product or gypsum building board.

5. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the slurry includes fibres.

6. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes an hydraulic binder selected from the group consisting of white, grey or pigmented cements, hydraulic limes and mixtures thereof.

7. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes cements selected from the group consisting of Portland cement, blended cements, blast furnace slag, pozzalans, masonry cement, oil well cement, natural cement, alumina cement, expansive cements and mixtures thereof.

8. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the coating includes a binder between about 10 and 50 wt % based on total dry ingredients.

9. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein fly ash is the dewatering agent.

10. (Currently Amended) A dewatering aid according to claim 9 for dewatering a cementitious slurry coating on a product, wherein the dewatering agent comprises:

i) about 10 to 60% of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a first large fly ash component including fly ash having a particle diameter between 1 and 100 microns but an average particle size of greater than 10 microns; and

ii) about 5 to 30 wt % of the formulation based on total dry ingredients of a second small fly ash component having a maximum particle size diameter of about ~~around~~ 10 microns,

wherein the dewatering agent is provided in an effective quantity to maintain porosity in the slurry and the product to be coated during dewatering and thereby permit dewatering of the slurry through the product to be coated.

11. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent includes a coarse fraction fly ash having a particle size diameter greater than about 100 microns.

12. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve resultant properties of the coating.

13. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve workability and applicability of the slurry to the product to be coated.

14. (Original) A dewatering aid according to claim 1, wherein the cementitious slurry coating includes additives to improve the properties of the product to be coated such that upon dewatering of the slurry through the product, the product is thus treated with said additive.